

is said Allstott's final actions saved a member of his unit from capture. As a United States soldier, there is no greater honor than laying down one's life to save a brother-in-arms.

While more than forty years have passed since Allstott gave his last measure of devotion, the cause he fought for lives on in the ripples throughout history his heroic efforts will have caused.

It is a privilege to honor Pfc. Mark Allstott's bold and courageous life. Such distinguished service to the United States of America continues to serve as an inspiration to us all.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR GREG
ABBOTT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from Governor Greg Abbott:

NOVEMBER 16, 2015.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: As governor of Texas, I write to inform you that the State of Texas will not accept any refugees from Syria in the wake of the deadly terrorist attack in Paris.

Further, I—and millions of Americans—implore you to halt your plans to accept more Syrian refugees in the United States. A Syrian “refugee” appears to have been part of the Paris terror attack. American humanitarian compassion could be exploited to expose Americans to similar deadly danger. The reasons for such concerns are plentiful.

The FBI director testified to Congress that the federal government does not have the background information that is necessary to effectively conduct proper security checks on Syrian nationals. Director Comey explained: “We can query our database until the cows come home, but there will be nothing show up because we have no record of them.”

The threat posed to Texas by ISIS is very real. ISIS claimed credit last May when two terrorist gunmen launched an attack in Garland, Texas. Less than two weeks later, the FBI arrested an Iraqi-born man in North Texas and charged him with lying to federal agents about traveling to Syria to fight with ISIS. And in 2014, when I served as Texas attorney general, we participated in a Joint Terrorism Task Force that arrested two Austin residents for providing material support to terrorists—including ISIS.

Given the tragic attack in Paris and the threats we have already seen in Texas, coupled with the FBI director's acknowledgment that we do not have the information necessary to effectively vet Syrian nationals, Texas cannot participate in any program that will result in Syrian refugees—any one of whom could be connected to terrorism—being resettled in Texas.

Effective today, I am directing the Texas Health & Human Services Commission's Refugee Resettlement Program to not participate in the resettlement of any Syrian refugees in the State of Texas. And I urge you, as president, to halt your plans to allow Syrians to be resettled anywhere in the United States. Neither you nor any federal official can guarantee that Syrian refugees will not be part of any terroristic activity. As such, opening our door to them irresponsibly ex-

poses our fellow Americans to unacceptable peril.

Respectfully,

GREG ABBOTT,
Governor.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN LIFE
CENTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Christian Life Center on its 25th anniversary.

With the prayers and planning of a small, but committed, group of Christians, the Christian Life Center was born in 1990. In the years since, the Center has continued to grow in faith and mission at its beautiful complex in Bensalem Township, Bucks County.

Through its tireless work, the Christian Life Center has taken the Gospel into homes and hearts throughout its community while growing a welcoming place of worship for Christian families and individuals dedicated to their faith, each other.

My best wishes for ongoing devotion and continued growth in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS DAY

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, as we come together today to recognize the service of all who have served in our nation's armed forces, let us take a moment to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms and could not be here today to join in the celebration. Let us also remember those young men and women who at this very moment are in far off lands, standing between the forces of oppression and freedom loving people everywhere.

We must also not forget the sacrifices made by the families of our service members, who go long periods of time without seeing their loved ones, and often have to perform the duties of two parents, while the other willfully places themselves in harm's way for our grateful nation.

As you know, our beautiful island, while small geographically in comparison to other states and territories, has the highest rate of enlistment into our nation's armed forces, a fact that I persistently remind Congress of. In fact, it is 10 times that of the states. This means that in American Samoa, today is just a little more special, and I want to personally salute all from our island who have served.

May God continue to bless the United States and those who stand to protect her.

RECOGNIZING THE TEXAS VET-
ERANS COMMISSION OF EL
PASO, TEXAS

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand today in recognition of the Texas Veterans Commission offices located in El Paso, Texas. Created in 1927, the Texas Veterans Commission has a longstanding tradition of honoring Texas Veterans.

Working as a state appointed advocate, the Texas Veterans Commission represents Texas and its veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The commission operates in four areas: claims representation and counseling services for veteran's benefits; educational benefits; employment assistance; and grant services for veteran service organizations, charities, and government agencies. The El Paso offices have extended these important services to veterans in my district and have been helpful in getting these individuals the benefits they deserve.

The local offices are well known for their work in the community. Specifically, the Commission has dedicated itself to combatting veteran unemployment with fairs such as “Hiring Red, White and You!” Since the first job fair in 2012, the Commission has been able to connect over 1,500 job seeking veterans with potential employers and information on opportunities in the El Paso community.

The El Paso Texas Veterans Commission offices have improved the quality of life for our community's veterans and their families. I am grateful for the work of Bruce S. Biegel, Karen L. Rooks, Frances Holden and the entire staff for their unyielding advocacy and assistance to our veterans.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND
ALBERT E. CHEW, JR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Reverend Albert E. Chew, Jr. for his service to Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church after 56 years of service to the church and his community. His passing on November 6, 2015 leaves a void in the Fort Worth community, and I join in giving our condolences to the Chew family.

Born in Bremond, Texas, Reverend Chew was the son of a Baptist preacher. He attended high school in both Bremond and Waco, Texas before pursuing a college education at Bishop College and Prairie View A&M and completing seminary studies at Brite College of the Bible in Fort Worth, Texas.

Reverend Chew served as a pastor at numerous Texas churches since 1946, but for the last fifty-six years, he served the community at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. During his time at Shiloh, he not only impacted the Northside neighborhood, but also the greater Fort Worth community through his community involvement.

Chew was a charter member of the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission, an organization that combated discriminatory practices